

October 2020



Island County Parent to Parent Newsletter

We will continue to follow the Governor's directive on phased openings of our communities.
Stay Healthy, Stay Connected

Island County Parent to Parent and WA PAVE Present: Student Rights: Special Education During COVID-19 and Beyond

No state or federal protections for students with disabilities have been waived because of the pandemic. This training provides vocabulary and basic information to help family caregivers understand student rights and how to collaborate with the school in special education process.

Wednesday, October 21st

6:00pm-7:30pm

Presentation and Q & A

Presenter: Jerri Clark is a Parent Resource Coordinator with Washington's Parent Training and Information (PTI) center, which is managed by PAVE (Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment). A resident of Vancouver, WA, since 1995, she started her career as a journalist and has taught yoga and dance. She is the founding director of Mothers of the Mentally Ill (MOMI), which advocates for improvements in mental healthcare.

Family Activities You Can Still Enjoy, Even with Current Restrictions

Take precautions and be careful. We want everyone to only do what feels safe and healthy to you. Doctors have stated it is healthy for your mind and body to get out and about. Something as basic as going for a walk/hike in your neighborhood. Or venture out and support local businesses that are limiting capacity and taking extra precautions. Follow guidelines set by Governor, County and businesses. Wear your mask, stay safe and stay healthy. Always check websites or call before you venture out. Openings/Closings/Restrictions can change without notice.

FREE FAMILY COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN EVENT
COME TRUNK OR TREAT WITH
THE WHIDBEY ISLAND LIONS CLUB
AND OTHER LOCAL BUSINESSES

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Face Masks
Are Required

Halloween
Costumes
Encouraged

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

E-Mail Us
wilclions@gmail.com

For Information
Call
(360) 679-9468

Come for the
Treats
and
Stay for the
Movie!

BLUE FOX DRIVE IN
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31st
12pm - 3pm

Blue Fox Drive-In Theater

- ◆ Many parks, trails and beaches are open on Camano, Whidbey and more. Check websites before you venture out.
- ◆ Blue Fox Drive In is open most days. Check their website for movies and dates. Movies, snack bar and go-carts available. Oak Harbor
- ◆ Oak Bowl is now open and taking RSVP for lane rentals. (360)679-2533 Oak Harbor
- ◆ Lam's Golf Links. 3 Par family friendly mini-golf. (360)675-3412 By Deception Pass bridge, Oak Harbor
- ◆ Island County Museum and PNW Naval Air Museums are open.
- ◆ Matzke Sculpture Park. A "must see" on Camano Island. Acres of green park with hidden sculptures.
- ◆ Have you thought about Girl Scouts? They want to work with families and become more inclusive for families. They have 2 fun and free events coming up. Animal Dance Party and Robot Build Party. (800)541-9852
- ◆ Most of us moved to the island because of the beauty. Enjoy your neighborhood or the green/public spaces around you. Disability Discover Passes are available for free access to WA State Parks.



What is DDA?

(Developmental Disabilities Administration)

Thursday, November 5th

6:00pm-7:00pm via Zoom

Presented by Callie Richards, DDA Outstation Manager, Oak Harbor

What can DDA provide for my child?

What are the eligibility requirements?

What are the different options offered through DDA?

Great opportunity to ask questions and find out more about this program!

To RSVP contact Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson t.wheeler-thompson@islandcountywa.gov or (360)632-7539. You will be sent the Zoom link with RSVP.

Looking for GOOD NEWS ? Life After....

Son or daughter still in school years?

What about **life after....**

While we all look forward to life after this virus.....I want to invite us to consider life after the school years. True - your child is in Birth to Three, Elementary, middle or High School - yet their school career will come to a close sooner than you think.

Good news for Island County residents - and we sure could use good news right?

When your loved one is in the 18-21 Transition program in your school district you can choose to participate in School to Work which has the goal of student leaving Transition program with a paid job!!!! What a concept hey?

This academic year marks the 7th year of County partnerships with **all school districts on Whidbey and Camano.** Every year we have experienced 100% success.

Success with what? Goal of the partnerships is to support allllll students/families - from highly impacted to less impacted folks - to leave school with a paid\$ job!

Okay - but my child is highly impacted and is not even verbal nor mobile, how will that work? Good news - students have graduated with paid work who are nonverbal, are legally blind, and full variety of challenges. Many in the program are highly impacted. Is it a challenge to acquire and keep a job - you bet. Yet our success rate stays the same - 100%.

Bottom line: no matter what stage of school your loved one is at today - when they are in the 18-21 year old transition program they can participate in the School to Work program, which is now formally a 2 year program in every school in the County.

Good news indeed

Talk with Tiffany or Mike Etzell for more info 360-499-5401 cell or mikeet@islandcountywa.gov



PARENT to PARENT

Island County Parent to Parent
Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson
(360)632-7539 call/text
t.wheeler-thompson@islandcountywa.gov
Just a reminder to add my new email address to your address book.

Like us on Facebook for updates on events and resources in our community.



Find us on Facebook



Special Education Guidance from OSPI Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

<https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/press-releases/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-resources/special-education-guidance-covid-19>

Washington Listens

Washington Listens will provides non-clinical support to people who feel sad, anxious, or stressed due to COVID-19. Washington Listens is free and anonymous. Any Washington resident can call and a support specialist will listen and help to guide you to connections within your community.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/washington-listens-fact-sheet.pdf>

They say *“It Takes A Village”*, but in our case,

“It Takes Two Islands”

Navigating various complex systems can be overwhelming. Another way of saying *“You Don’t Know, What You Don’t Know”*.

Parent to Parent and our Resource Guide can help your family on your journey.

Parent to Parent provides:

Information on resources, fun & educational opportunities and support in our community. Check out our comprehensive list of resources for families with special needs/disabilities in Island County and region.



Island County Parent to Parent and our Resource Guide offers you choices, access, diversity, promote inclusion and supports available. If you have questions, please contact Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson with Island County Parent to Parent Program. If you know of a new resource that should be added or if a resource needs to be updated, please let us know. We want to offer your family integrity and heart.

For an online/printable version of our Resource Guide, visit our website at <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Humanservices/Pages/Parent-to-Parent.aspx> (Google: Island County Parent to Parent)

